

# KING COUNTY LANDMARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES\*

*April 27, 2023  
Neely Mansion  
12303 SE Auburn-Black Diamond Road  
Auburn, WA  
(Approved 05/25/2022)*

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Cristy Lake, Chair, Dean Kralios, Vice-Chair, Kim Hartman, Francesca Renouard, Jeff Murdock

**COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED:** Amber Earley, Amy Blue

**STAFF PRESENT:** Sarah Steen, Jennifer Meisner

**GUESTS:** Sarah Martin, Linda Van Nest, Tom Hitzroth, Carol Grimes, Julie Acosta, other members of the Neely Mansion Assn.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Lake called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. Introductions of commissioners and staff were made, and the Chair outlined the structure of the hearing.

## **Convene KING COUNTY LANDMARKS COMMISSION**

**CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS #23.10:** Marymoor Park/Willowmoor Historic District – proposal to install a raingarden for stormwater management in northeast section of historic district.

Steen gave a brief presentation outlining the history and significance of the Willowmoor Historic District within Marymoor Park, detailing the project proposal to install a raingarden in the northeast corner of the district, in an open lawn area near the maintenance yard. Members of the DRC reported on their meeting with the applicant, noting that given the ground disturbance element of the project that archaeological concerns would be handled through Parks and HPP archaeologists. The DRC recommended approval of the project. Commissioners discussed the specific plantings proposed for the raingarden and the distance from known Olmstead-designed features nearer the Clise Mansion.

Chair Lake opened the floor for public comment. Former Commissioner Tom Hitzroth offered some additional background and corrections to the historic context statement section of the staff report. Lake invited Commissioner questions for the applicant or staff. Lake then closed the public comment period and requested Commissioner deliberation on the proposal. No additional questions were raised, and Commissioners indicated their support for the project proposal as appropriate under the SOI Standards.

Kralios/Renouard moved to approve CoA #23.10 as proposed and recommended by the DRC. The motion passed, 5-0.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** *Revised* Neely Farm Landmark Nomination

\*May include minutes for cities who have interlocal historic preservation agreements with King County.

Steen presented her staff report on the nomination, detailing the landmarking process and criteria for landmark designation within unincorporated King County. Steen also presented the staff recommendation of approval for the 1982 Neely Mansion landmark nomination revision, outlining the features of significance of the Mansion, Hori Furoba and Acosta Shed. Sarah Martin, preservation consultant and author of the nomination, presented on the history and significance of the Neely Farm, detailing the additional historic context information included in the revised nomination form, explaining the reasoning behind expanding the designated boundaries and additional criteria she believed were applicable to the landmark site. Lake opened the floor to public comment.

Linda Van Nest, representing the Neely Mansion Association (owners of the Mansion and the additional parcel to be included) spoke in support of Sarah's work on the revised nomination and thanked the Commissioners for holding the nomination hearing at the Mansion. She thanked community members and Neely Mansion Association members in attendance, introducing each, and noting how their efforts made the programming at Neely Mansion possible. Lake closed the public comment portion of the meeting and invited the Commission to discuss the nomination application.

Commissioner Kralios said this was the second nomination revision he had been involved with on the Commission, and he is gratified to see this work being done to document a richer and more complete story of these important historic resources. Commissioner Renouard and Commissioner Murdock agreed. Commissioner Hartman asked about the Hori Furoba, an outbuilding on site which had been designated independently in 1996. Steen responded that its now folded into the Neely Farm nomination, but nothing will be different in terms of design review. Lake called for a motion.

Kralios/Murdock moved to approve the revised nomination for the Aaron and Sarah Neely Farm, which includes the Hori Furoba and Acosta Shed, expands the landmark boundaries to include parcel #212105-9156, and includes as significant features: all exterior features of the Neely Mansion, Hori Furoba, and Acosta Farm Shed; all interior features of the Hori Furoba, and the following interior features of the Neely Mansion: floor plan; location and size of door and window openings; type, style and dimensions of windows, doors, flooring and all woodwork; staircase, including wainscotting, moulding and newel post; ceiling medallions. All land area within the landmark boundaries (for new construction only.) The motion passed, 5-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** (*general*): None

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER'S REPORT:** Meisner thanked Sarah Martin for her excellent research and documenting a fuller story of the Neely Farm and commended the Neely Mansion Association Board and Volunteers for all their hard work, and creative and inspiring stewardship of the Mansion. She talked about the window conservation and public archaeology workshops which have been hosted by the Neely Mansion over the years, letting everyone know another public historic archaeology training will be offered at the Mansion in the coming weeks. Meisner then offered a brief status report on the process of adding a second archaeologist to HPP staff. She noted that the State Historic Preservation Officer Awards are coming up in Olympia, honoring people who have made contributions to the preservation and archaeology fields, as well as projects throughout the State. Meisner also noted that the Renton Downtown Partnership had just applied for a CLG grant to perform a reconnaissance survey of the downtown core.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None

**ADJOURN:** The KCLC adjourned at 6:12 p.m.